Metro Edmonton Labour Review

Canada's City of Opportunities

1984

85-3380/

EDMONTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Edmonton Economic Development Authority has been established to promote and develop the Edmonton economy. It is responsible to support the development of local industry as well as attract new economic growth. The Authority's goal is to achieve a diversified and stable economic base for Edmonton.

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Table of Contents

Introduction 1
Executive Summary 2
General Population Characteristics 3
Metro Edmonton Labour Force 4
Characteristics and Job Skills of the Labour Force 5
Employment Profile 7
Structure of Labour Costs 8
Cost of Living 8
Employment Benefits 8
Unionization 9
General Information 10
Labour Review Stat Pack* 11
References 20
Other Publications 20

* Detailed statistical information on Metro Edmonton's labour characteristics.

Tables

1 Population Growth - Alberta and Metro Edmonton 1979 - 1983 12
2 Metro Edmonton Labour Force Characteristics 12
3 Labour Force Unemployment and Participation Rates 1979 - 1983 12
4 Educational Institution Enrolments 1982-83 13
5 University of Alberta Student Enrolment for Selected Faculties - Winter Session 1983-84 13
6 Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Enrolment Summary 1982-83 14
7 Edmonton Journeymen and Apprentices, 1983 14
8 Metro Edmonton Employment by Industry 15
9 Major Employers in Edmonton 15
10 Average Weekly Earnings (Industrial Composite) 1979 - 1983 16
11 Average Hourly Earnings in Manufacturing 1979 - 1983 16
12 Average Weekly Earnings in Edmonton, Alberta and Canada 16
13 Metro Edmonton 1983 Survey of Monthly Salaries by Occupation 17
14 Metro Edmonton 1983 Survey of Hourly Wages by Occupation 17
15 Consumer Price Index Comparison 17
16 Average Home Prices in the Edmonton Area as of April 1984 17
17 Inter City Cost of Living Summary 18
18 Labour Organization Membership and Employment by Industry - Alberta, 1982 18
19 Labour Organization Membership by Census Metropolitan Area, 1981 19
20 A Provincial Ranking of Person-Days Lost Due to Legal Strikes and Lockouts Compared to Person-Days Worked - January to November, 1983 19

Graphs

1 Population - Alberta and Metro Edmonton 1979 - 1983 3
2 Metro Edmonton Labour Force 1979 - 1983 4
3 Metro Edmonton Population Over 15 Years of Age by Level of Schooling - 1981 5
4 Journeymen and Apprentices in Edmonton, Calgary and Alberta - 1983 6
5 Metro Edmonton Employment by Industry - 1981 7
6 Average Weekly Earnings 1979 - 1983 8
7 Labour Organization Membership by Industry in Alberta - 1982 9
8 Wage Settlements in Alberta by Industry 1982 - 1983 9

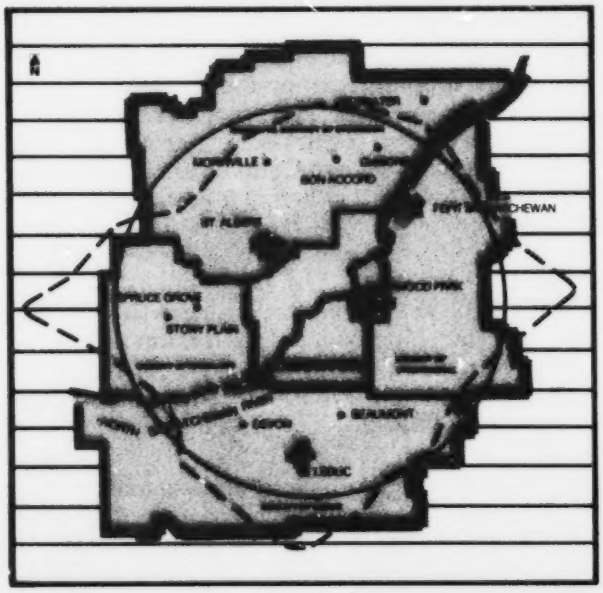
Edmonton, Alberta's capital has a labour force participation rate of 70% which is well above the national rate.

Introduction

Availability, quality and cost of labour are major considerations in deciding on a business location. This report is intended to provide employers or prospective employers with a general overview of the Edmonton labour market.

Information is also provided on other labour market criteria. Some of the topics covered include population growth and the associated impact on skills and characteristics of the labour force. Background information is provided on the structure of the Edmonton economy, including descriptions of major industries and listing of major employers in the area. Labour costs and cost-of-living comparisons between Edmonton and other Canadian cities are included. An analysis of Alberta's labour organization and the labour-relations climate relative to other provinces is also provided.

The **Metro Edmonton Labour Review** has been written using the most recent data and information available. Readers can either contact the primary data sources or the Edmonton Economic Development Authority to obtain updated information. The geographical base in this report is the metropolitan Edmonton region which includes the city of Edmonton and the neighbouring communities depicted in the accompanying map.



Metro Edmonton Region

- Metro Edmonton (Edmonton Sub Region)
- Edmonton Proper
- County and Municipal District Boundaries
- 48 kilometres (30 miles) radius
- 45 minutes travel time from downtown Edmonton

Over $62 billion of investment in major industrial projects are planned for Edmonton's service area between now and 1994.

Executive Summary

Edmonton is the centre of a region that has undergone dramatic economic change and growth in recent years. The prospects for the future, based upon continued resource development in Western Canada, are bright for Edmonton. Over $62 billion of investment in major industrial projects are planned for Edmonton's service area through the next decade.

Population growth has kept pace with economic developments as Metro Edmonton's population increases averaged 3.2% per year during the 1979 to 1983 period. Some of the more important highlights of Edmonton's labour market include:

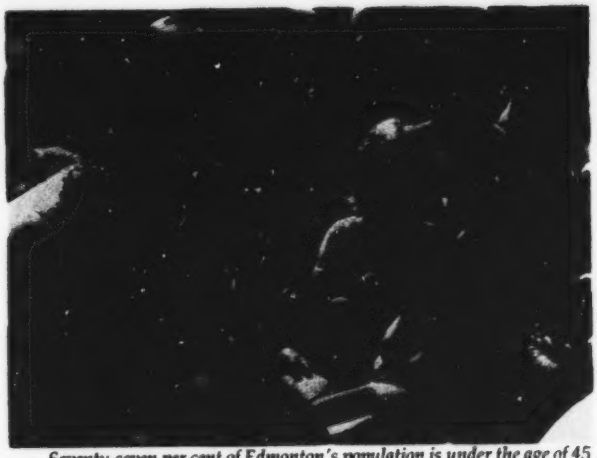
- Edmonton's 70% labour force participation rate continues to be one of the highest among Canadian cities.
- Metro Edmonton's labour force numbers 530,000 people.
- Forty-four per cent of all registered apprentices in Alberta are working in the Edmonton area. Together with the available journeymen, they provide a substantial skilled labour base for construction, expansion and maintenance of residential, commercial and industrial capacity.
- Forty-six per cent of the population between 25 and 64 years of age have either post-secondary or university training, providing the nucleus for a well-trained and educated workforce. Major facilities exist for further training of the workforce.
- Labour costs in Edmonton are comparable to most other Canadian cities and are lower than those of Calgary or Vancouver. Similarly, the cost of living in Edmonton is very close to the nationwide average and for many items is lower.
- Much of Edmonton's unionized labour force is in the public sector. Person-days lost due to strikes or lock-outs have historically been minimal in Alberta and Edmonton. Alberta has ranked among the best provinces during the last three years in terms of fewest person-days lost per 10,000 person-days worked.

General Population Characteristics

From mid-1979 to mid-1983, Alberta's population grew by 300,000 people to reach a total of 2.3 million. This represents an annual rate of growth of 3.4%, greater than that of any other province during that period.

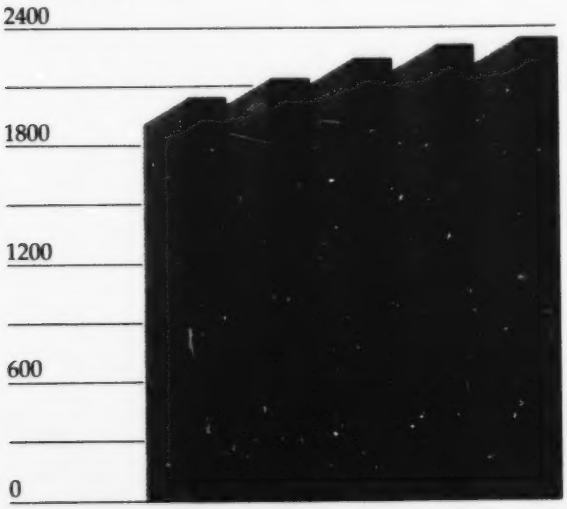
Population growth in the Metro Edmonton area averaged 3.2% annually over that time as total population passed the 740,000 mark. Metro Edmonton has therefore been able to retain its relative importance to the rest of the province in terms of population. This in part reflects the economic opportunities available in the greater Edmonton area.

Edmonton's population is heavily concentrated in the 15 to 44 age group with just over half of the population falling in this category. The 530,000 people between the ages of 15 and 64 are the basis of Edmonton's potential labour force.

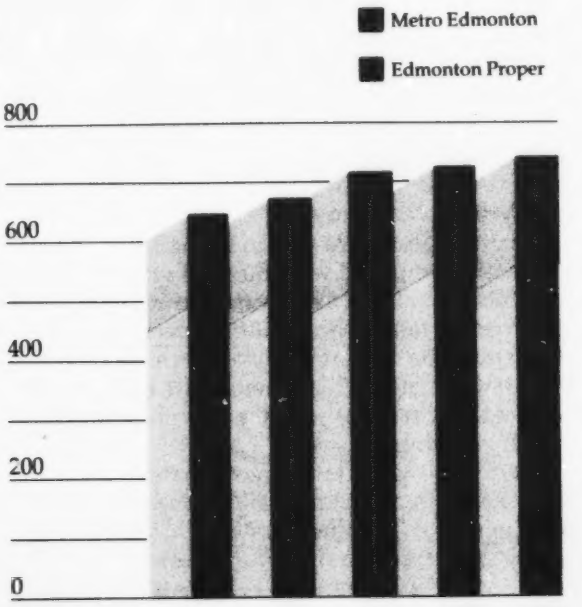


Seventy-seven per cent of Edmonton's population is under the age of 45 providing a significant labour force.

Graph 1
Population – Alberta and Metro Edmonton 1979 – 1983
(thousands)



	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Alberta	2,059	2,143	2,238	2,315	2,345
% Change	3.8	4.1	4.4	3.5	1.3



Metro	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Edmonton*	652	677	716	728	740
% Change	3.0	3.9	5.8	1.6	1.7

In 1983 Metro Edmonton accounted for 31.5% of Alberta's population. * Compiled by Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Planning Commision

Source: Alberta Municipal Affairs – 1983 Official Population List
City of Edmonton – Annual Civic Census, March 1983

Edmonton has consistently exhibited higher labour force participation rates than the rest of Canada and Alberta.

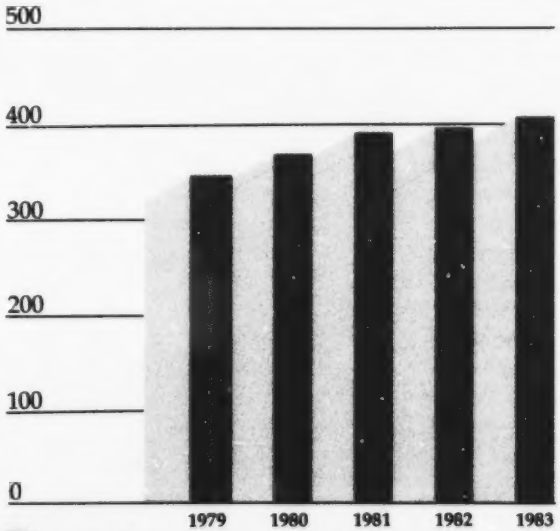
Metro Edmonton Labour Force

From 1979 to 1983 Edmonton's labour force grew by approximately 70,000 people. This represents an annual growth rate of 4.4% over the five years. Although recent unemployment rates have risen above 10%, labour participation rates have nonetheless remained above 70%.

The unemployment rate in Edmonton cannot be directly compared with those of other Canadian cities on account of differing participation rates. Other cities' unemployment rates tend to be underestimated because of lower participation rates. This is especially evident in those cities or regions which are in chronic economic distress.

Edmonton's population has consistently exhibited higher labour force participation rates than the rest of Canada and Alberta. This is due to the population age distribution and to the job opportunities in Edmonton relative to many other Canadian cities.

Graph 2
Metro Edmonton Labour Force
(thousands)



	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Labour Force	345	370	387	398	410
Employed	334	357	370	358	360

Source: Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission
Statistics Canada - Catalogue #71-001

Characteristics and Job Skills of the Labour Force

A large proportion of Edmonton's labour force has pursued secondary education or training beyond the high school level. About 48% of Edmonton's population over 15 years of age has had either university, technical or vocational schooling.

Edmonton plays an important role in the education and training of manpower. Several major educational institutions are located in Edmonton and these play significant roles in training the local labour force. These facilities provide a wide range of courses and programs which are helpful to people of any skill type or level.

The University of Alberta, the oldest and largest university in the province, spreads over 62 hectares (154 acres) and includes 24 major teaching and research buildings and two affiliated colleges. Full and part-time enrolment during the 1983-84 winter session totalled 23,000 students. Of these students, about 65 per cent are from the Metro Edmonton region.

The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), which is located in Edmonton, offers one-year certificate and two-year diploma programs. NAIT is an attractive alternative to those who wish to develop job skills beyond the high school level but who do not wish to attend university. Programs in the areas of medical science, engineering, life resources technologies and business and apprenticeship trades are all offered through NAIT. Technical institute programs remain relevant to the job market through program advisory committees made up of people in business, industry, education and government. The committees meet regularly to advise on the numbers of trained people required in each field and on the changing skills and knowledge which graduates should possess.

Day time enrolment at NAIT is about 5,400 students in 56 programs. Ten thousand four hundred apprentices also train at NAIT for eight to 12 weeks each year. Enrolment in special interest or evening courses each year on a part-time basis is about 25,400.

Edmonton has a well trained labour force and the necessary infrastructure to continually upgrade and expand it. The apprenticeship training program is filled to capacity in the instruction part of its program. A new technical

The University of Alberta, located in Edmonton, is now Canada's second largest university.

Graph 3
Metro Edmonton Population Over 15 Years of Age by Level of Schooling – 1981

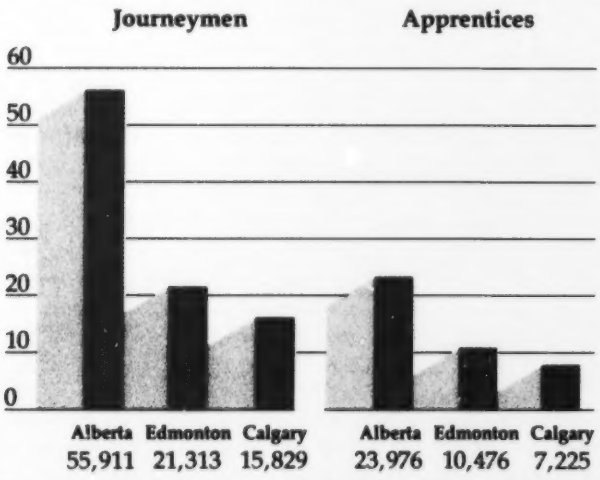
	Number	% of Total
Less than Grade 9	58,000	10.8%
Grade 9 to 13	220,000	41.0%
Post-Secondary (Non-University)	130,000	24.2%
University	113,000	21.1%
Trades Certificate or Diploma	16,000	2.9%
Total	537,000	

Source: Statistics Canada – 1981 Census of Canada

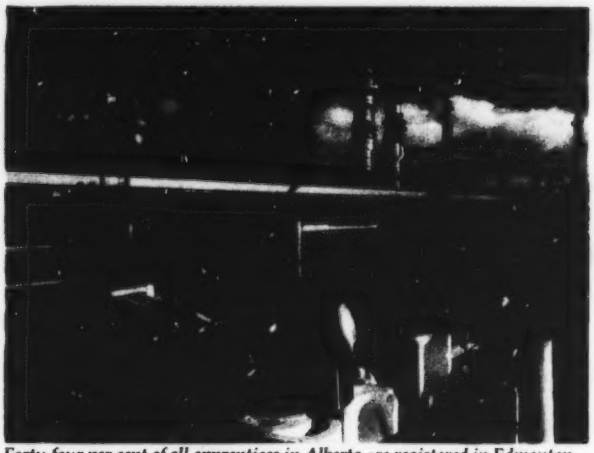
Stony Plain, west of Edmonton. Several courses, including heavy duty mechanics and agricultural mechanics, will be taught there. These courses will be moved from their present location at NAIT, freeing up room for other programs. Plans are already under way to reorganize the classroom logistics of the apprenticeship program.

Alberta has one of the leading apprenticeship programs in the Red Seal Program. The interprovincial Red Seal signifies acceptable trade qualifications throughout all Canadian provinces. Twenty of the 48 apprenticeship programs registered in the province are in the Red Seal Program. The long-term goal is to incorporate all trades into the program by adding one or two each year. Forty-four per cent of all apprentices in Alberta are registered in Edmonton. The availability of skilled tradesmen in the Edmonton area is conducive to further industrial and commercial expansion. As of 1983, there were 56,000 journeymen in Alberta and 21,000 in Edmonton.

Graph 4
Journeymen and Apprentices in Edmonton, Calgary and Alberta – 1983
(thousands)



Source: Alberta Manpower, Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Branch – Shop Registration Statistics, 1983



Forty-four per cent of all apprentices in Alberta are registered in Edmonton.

A number of other institutions offer other courses and programs for upgrading job skills. Of these, Concordia College is a liberal arts college operated by the Lutheran Church which offers university transfer courses. Enrolment in 1982-83 was 469.

Grant MacEwan Community College (GMCC) accommodates up to 6,000 students per trimester. Course offerings include diploma programs in accounting, advertising, business administration, property management and journalism. Courses leading to careers in social work are also available.

Edmonton has one of four provincial vocational centres. The purpose of the vocation centre is to help unemployed or under-employed Albertans obtain marketable employment skills. Course duration is less than a year and programs are designed with the assistance of industry. The Alberta Vocational Centre located in Edmonton provides courses in business education, nursing assistants, institutional housekeeping, bookkeeping and English as a second language.

Located in Edmonton, the Alberta Petroleum Industry Training Centre (APITC) was established in 1966 through the co-operative efforts of the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors and the Government of Alberta. The centre has achieved world-wide recognition for its sharing of training and expertise with foreign countries in Europe, Africa and Asia, as well as other parts of North America. The centre provides pre-employment training for people wishing to enter the oil drilling industry and upgrading for those already employed in the industry.

Employment Profile

While employment in all industries has grown during the last decade, the expansion has been imbalanced. In general, the tertiary or service oriented industries have become predominant through rapid expansion. Employment in the manufacturing sector has shown a decline in relative importance and as of 1981 employed 10% of the workforce.

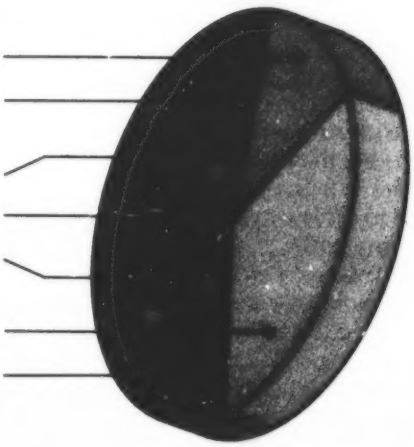
Edmonton's major employers include the public sector, major retail chains and the numerous oil refineries and petrochemical plants located in the metro region. The majority of employers in Edmonton remain the small and medium sized firms.

The Metro Edmonton economy is expected to become more service oriented in the 1980's. Through the middle and latter parts of the decade, the service industries are expected to outpace the goods producing industries in job creation. This is partly due to the fact that the service sector is more labour intensive than manufacturing or processing. Demand for skilled tradesmen will also continue to be strong in coming years.

Edmonton's many service industries provide numerous employment opportunities.

Graph 5
Metro Edmonton Employment by Industry – 1981

	Number	% of Total
Manufacturing	45,000	11.1
Construction	43,900	10.7
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	38,500	9.4
Trade	74,600	18.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	25,800	6.3
Community, Business and Personal Services	126,300	30.8
Other*	55,400	13.5
Total Employed	410,000	100.0



* Includes Agriculture, other primary industries, public administration and undefined employment

Source: Statistics Canada – 1981 Census of Canada.

Structure of Labour Costs

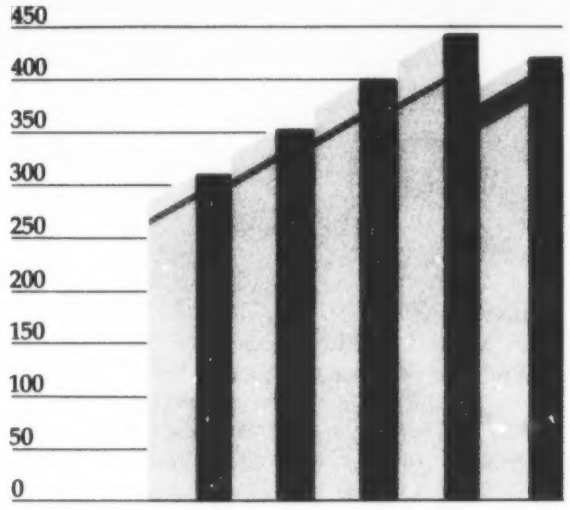
A brief survey of labour costs in various Canadian cities reveals that as a general rule, labour costs are lower in Eastern Canada than in Western Canada. However, average labour costs in Edmonton are comparable to those in other major cities and are low relative to other Western Canadian cities. In December 1983, Edmonton's labour costs, as measured by average hourly earnings in manufacturing, were 13% above the national average. The corresponding figure for average weekly earnings (industrial composite) was 4%. Edmonton still compares favourably with Montreal and Toronto and is less costly than Calgary and Vancouver which have the highest labour costs of all major Canadian cities.

Average or composite figures, however, tend to obscure differences in individual components due to aggregation. Comparisons of wages and salaries among geographic regions are sometimes misleading because all occupations are grouped together. Each region has its own industrial structure which results in differing weights across regions for each occupation. The textile industry, for instance, is a traditionally low paying industry. Its heavy concentration in Montreal tends to scale down that city's composite index.

Average weekly earnings comparisons are available for six major employment sectors. The disaggregated figures show Edmonton comparing favourably with Canadian averages and bettering most of the figures for Alberta.

Weekly average earnings in manufacturing are on average 9% higher in Edmonton than the rest of Canada but are low relative to Alberta rates.

Graph 6
Average Weekly Earnings 1979 – 1983
Industrial Composite
($)



	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Alberta	313	354	399	445	422
Edmonton	296	331	371	404	406
Canada	292	326	363	399	381

Note: Survey was substantially revised in April 1983 - New data is not comparable with that of previous years.

Source: Statistics Canada - Catalogue #72-002

Cost of Living

A concern of firms considering an Edmonton location is the cost of living in relation to other Canadian cities. In order to attract and retain employees, firms have to offer wages or salaries that are in step with living costs.

A recent cost of living model prepared by the Edmonton Economic Development Authority shows Edmonton's living costs to be comparable to other major Canadian cities. The model traces the expenditures of a family of four for one year. A sole wage earner has an annual salary of $40,000 and the family unit includes a spouse and two children under 16 years of age. Costs include federal and provincial income taxes, housing costs and non-housing costs.

Employment Benefits

As a general rule in Alberta, five day work weeks are the norm with most offices having 37.5 hours and non-offices having 40 hours of work per week.

Most employers offer either 10 or 11 days of paid holidays per year. Three weeks of paid annual vacation also seems to be the general rule with four or five weeks of vacation for long service employees.

Unionization

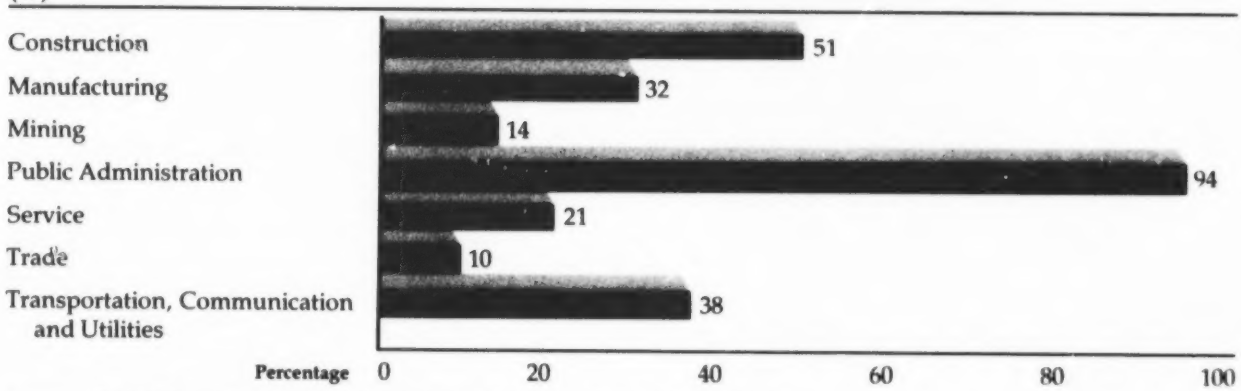
The 280,000 unionized workers in Alberta represent less than 30% of the total labour force. The tertiary sector of the economy, which includes trade, services, and public administration, makes up over 50% of the total union membership.

The extent of labour organization is fairly uniform across most Canadian cities. Of Canada's seven major cities including Edmonton, only Vancouver has a significantly higher degree of unionization than the others.

Compared on a province-by-province basis, Alberta has an excellent record of minimizing lost time due to strikes and lockouts of employees. In the last three years Alberta has posted the best overall record in terms of fewest person-days lost per 10,000 person-days worked when compared to all other provinces.

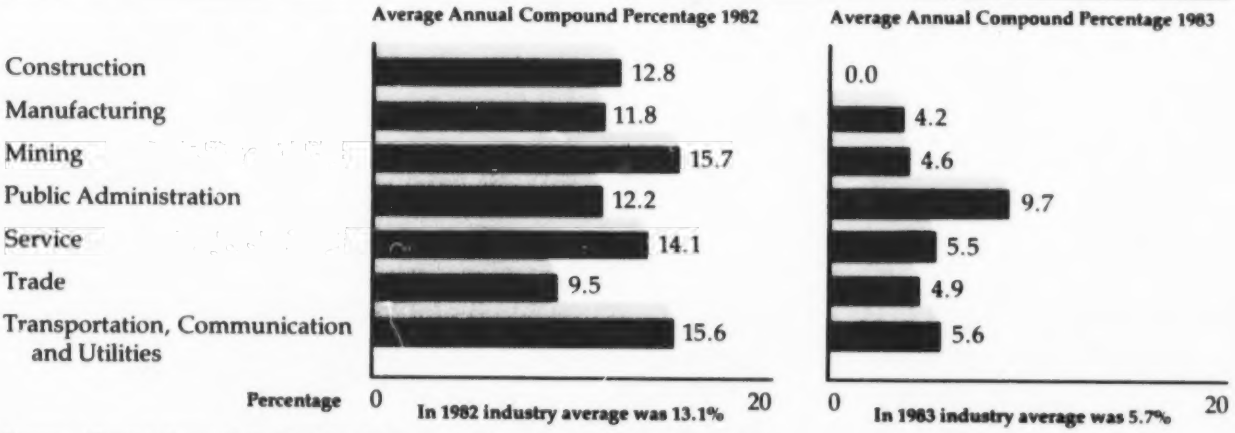
While unionization may have had an impact upon the salary-wage structure in Edmonton, it is doubtful that this impact is different from any other region in the Canadian economy. Negotiated wage settlements for all industries have moderated during the past two years. All indications for 1984 are that this trend will continue.

Graph 7
Labour Organization Membership by Industry in Alberta – 1982
(%)



Source: Alberta Labour – Membership in Labour Organizations in Alberta 1982, August 1983
Statistics Canada – Catalogue #72-008

Graph 8
Wage Settlements in Alberta by Industry 1982 – 83
(%)



Source: Alberta Labour – Collective Bargaining Scene Labour Fact Book, First Quarter 1984.

General Information

Labour Legislation

Employee-employer relations fall within the framework of the Alberta Labour Relations Act of 1981. Working conditions are governed likewise by the Employment Standards Act of 1981. The Alberta Department of Labour should be able to answer any questions on these areas.

Inquiries concerning Alberta labour legislation should be directed to:

Alberta Labour
Employment Standards Branch
4th Floor, 10339 – 124 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5N 3W1
Telephone: (403) 427-3731

Employers who wish to get information on provincial training programs and on educational institutions should contact:

Alberta Manpower
Manpower Training Branch
10924 – 119 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 3P5
Telephone: (403) 427-8517

Alberta Advanced Education
9th Floor, Pacific Plaza
10909 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3M8
Telephone: (403) 427-5655

The Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta protects and assists workers who suffer injury or disablement due to work-related accidents and diseases. In return for paying regular assessments, employers are also protected against legal action by workers who are injured or who contract industrial diseases during the course of employment. Prompt judgment of compensation claims replaces the delays, uncertainties and expense of legal action through the courts. Employers are required to pay the full costs of compensation on a collective responsibility basis. Assessments are based on the annual assessable payroll at a rate established for each industry. Employers are required to keep a complete record of accidents, injuries and any first aid treatment required and report claims as soon as possible. For additional information contact:

Workers' Compensation Board
9912 – 107 Street, P.O. Box 2415
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2S5
Telephone: (403) 427-1100

Canada Manpower provides assistance in finding employees, training or retraining workers and in developing manpower adjustment programs to cope with industrial and technological change. They can provide labour market information such as supply and demand of specific skills, industrial and occupational trends and regional and national economic reports. The Edmonton office is located at:

Canada Manpower Centre
10015 – 103 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: (403) 425-7720

Below is a list of contacts of the major educational institutions located in Edmonton.

Office of the Registrar
120 Administration Building
The University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2M7
Telephone: (403) 432-3113

The Registrar
Athabasca University
15015 – 123 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta
T5V 1J7 Tel. (403) 452-9990

The Registrar
Concordia College
7128 Ada Boulevard, Edmonton, Alberta
T5B 4E4 Tel. (403) 479-8481

The Registrar
Grant MacEwan Community College
Jasper Place Campus
10045 – 156 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T5P 2P7 Tel. (403) 483-2394

The Registrar
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
11762 – 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T5G 2R1 Tel. (403) 471-7411

The Registrar
Westerra Institute of Technology
P.O. Box 5000
4813 – 47 Avenue, Stony Plain, Alberta
T0E 2G0 Tel. (403) 963-1000

The Registrar
Alberta Vocational Centre
10215 – 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 1L6 Tel. (403) 427-5512

The Centre Supervisor
Alberta Petroleum Institute Training Centre
10330 – 71 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 0W8 Tel. (403) 427-2768

Labour Review Stat Pack

Tables

1 Population Growth - Alberta and Metro Edmonton 1979 - 1983 12
2 Metro Edmonton Labour Force Characteristics 12
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19 Labour Organization Membership by Census Metropolitan Area, 1981 19
20 A Provincial Ranking of Person-Days Lost Due to Legal Strikes and Lockouts Compared to Person-Days Worked - January to November, 1983 19

Table 1
Population Growth – Alberta and Metro Edmonton 1979 – 1983

Year	Alberta	% Inc.	Metro Edmonton*	% Inc.	Proper Edmonton	% Inc.	% Metro Edm. of Alberta
1979	2,058,700	3.8	651,561	3.0	491,359	2.8	31.6
1980	2,142,600	4.1	676,820	3.9	505,773	2.9	31.6
1981	2,237,724	4.4	716,101	5.8	521,205	3.1	32.0
1982	2,315,100	3.5	727,803	1.6	551,314	5.8	31.4
1983	2,345,400	1.3	739,852	1.7	560,085	1.6	31.5
Average		3.4		3.2		3.2	31.7

* Compiled by Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission

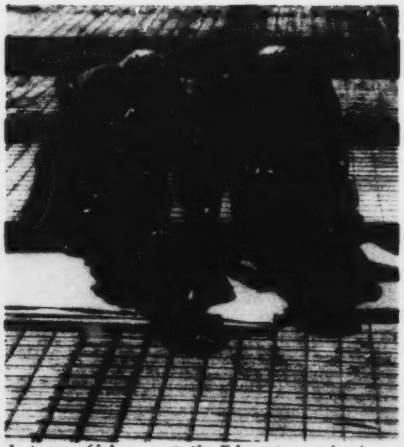
Source: Alberta Municipal Affairs - 1983 Official Population List
City of Edmonton - Annual Civic Census, March 1983

Table 2
Metro Edmonton Labour Force Characteristics

Year	Population	Population* 15 Yrs. and Older	Labour* Force	Employed*	Unemployed*	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate
1979	651,561	481,000	345,000	334,000	11,000	71.8	3.3
1980	676,820	508,000	370,000	357,000	13,000	72.8	3.6
1981	716,101	537,000	387,000	370,000	17,000	72.1	4.4
1982	727,803	565,000	398,000	358,000	40,000	70.4	10.1
1983	739,852	579,000	410,000	360,000	50,000	70.8	12.1

* Edmonton Economic Development Authority estimates.

Source: Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission
Statistics Canada - Catalogue #71-001



In terms of labour cost, the Edmonton region is generally competitive with other Canadian cities.

Table 3
Labour Force Unemployment and Participation Rates 1979 – 1983 (%)

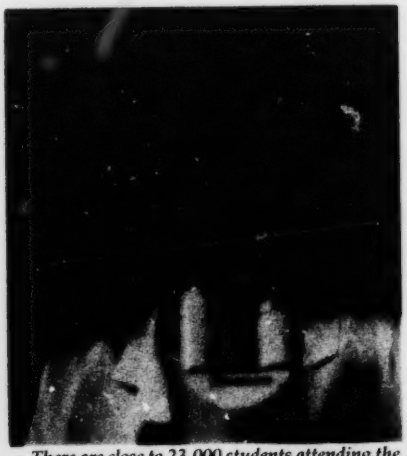
Year	Participation Rate			Unemployment Rate		
	Canada	Alberta	Edmonton	Canada	Alberta	Edmonton
1979	63.3	69.4	71.8	7.5	3.9	3.3
1980	64.0	70.3	72.8	7.5	3.7	3.6
1981	64.7	71.7	72.1	7.6	4.9	4.4
1982	63.2	70.1	70.4	12.2	9.7	10.1
1983	63.6	70.7	70.7	10.7	10.3	12.1

Source: Alberta Bureau of Statistics - Alberta Statistical Review
Statistics Canada - Catalogue #71-001 Monthly

Table 4
Educational Institution Enrolments 1982-83

Institution	Program	Enrolment	Institution Total
University of Alberta			
Undergraduate and Professional	- Full time	18,710	
	- Part time	3,031	
Graduate	- Full time	2,335	
	- Part time	999	
Non-Credit		31,144	56,219
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology			
	- Full time	5,381	
	- Apprentices	10,411	
	- Continuing Education	25,419	41,211
Westerra Institute of Technology			-
Alberta Vocation Centre - Edmonton (Employment Training)			6,269
Alberta Petroleum Institute Training Centre			410
Athabasca University			8,836
Concordia College			
	- Full time	415	
	- Part time	54	469
Grant MacEwan Community College			
	- Full time	1,993	
	- Part time	1,721	3,714
Total			117,128

Source: Alberta Advanced Education - Special Tabulation, May 1984.



There are close to 23,000 students attending the 1983-84 winter session at the University of Alberta.

Table 5
University of Alberta Student Enrolment for Selected Faculties Winter Session 1983-84

Faculty	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	Total
Engineering	515	585	470	444	2,020
Business Administration and Commerce	240	370	476	453	1,560
Arts	1,313	1,203	1,033	392	4,035
Science	1,917	1,187	791	256	4,354
Graduate Studies	-	-	-	-	2,453
Sub-Total	3,985	3,345	2,770	1,545	14,422
Total	6,083	5,605	4,577	3,014	22,857

Source: The University of Alberta - 1983-84 Summary of Statistics, February 1984.

Table 6
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Enrolment Summary 1982-83

Program	Enrolment
Engineering Technologies	2,339
Health Science/Life Resources Technologies	1,076
Business and Applied Arts	1,966
Sub-Total	5,381
Apprenticeship	10,411
Continuing Education	25,419
Total	41,211

Source: NAIT - A Profile, September 1983.

Table 7
Edmonton Journeymen and Apprentices – 1983

	Journeymen	Apprentices		Journeymen	Apprentices
Bricklayer	366	75	Millwright	421	268
Carpenter	1,693	1,180	Interior Systems Mechanic	201	74
Electrician	2,177	1,726	Cook	77	103
Painter and Decorator	598	77	Heavy Duty Mechanic	1,563	716
Plasterer	18	0	Tilesetter	51	29
Plumber	1,093	843	Power Lineman	335	98
Steamfitter	342	126	Communication Electrician	9	333
Baker	61	49	Appliance Serviceman	66	17
Glassworker	174	73	Instrument Mechanic	179	261
Steel Fabricator	117	29	Agricultural Mechanic	22	13
Partsman	556	153	Insulator	182	353
Roofer	135	50	Heavy Equipment Operator	108	4
Floorcovering Mechanic	156	18	Water Well Driller	54	24
Electrical Rewind Mechanic	110	21	Cabinetmaker	182	142
Gasfitter	711	45	Sprinklerfitter	64	73
Motor Mechanic	2,561	1,011	Boilermaker	47	131
Auto Body Mechanic	660	282	Printing & Graphic Arts	685	66
Sheet Metal Mechanic	401	498	Ironworker	64	112
Welder	2,075	990	Transport Refrigeration Mechanic	3	6
Electronic Technician	292	56	Barber	309	0
Refrigeration Mechanic	137	89	Beautician	1,437	0
Machinist	723	249	Recreational Vehicle Mechanic	0	0
Power System Electrician	0	13	Sawfiler	0	0
Tool and Die Maker	0	0	Elevator Constructor	98	0
Total				21,313	10,476

Source: Alberta Manpower, Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Branch - Shop Registration Statistics, 1983

Table 8
Metro Edmonton Employment by Industry

Industry	1971	% of Total Employment	1981	% of Total Employment
Manufacturing	25,204	12.2	45,500	11.1
Construction	18,859	9.2	43,900	10.7
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	20,643	10.0	38,500	9.4
Trade	38,286	18.6	74,600	18.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	9,623	4.7	25,800	6.3
Community, Business and Personal Services	60,879	29.5	126,300	30.8
Other*	32,586	15.8	55,400	13.5
Total Employed	206,080	100.0	410,000	100.0

* Includes Agriculture, other primary industries, public administration and undefined employment

Source: Statistics Canada – 1981 Census of Canada.

The Community, Business and Personal Services industry sector employs the greatest number of people in the Metro Edmonton area.

Table 9
Major Employers in Edmonton
(more than 2,000 employees)

	Edmonton employees
Government of Alberta	19,000
City of Edmonton (including utilities)	12,500
University of Alberta	8,500*
Edmonton Public School Board	8,000
Canada Safeway Ltd. (grocery retailer)	4,800*
Woodward Stores Ltd. (retailer)	4,600*
Simpson Sears Ltd. (retailer)	4,400*
Canadian National (railroad)	3,500
University of Alberta Hospital	3,000
Royal Alexandra Hospital	3,000
Edmonton Catholic School District	2,400
Hudson's Bay Company (retailer)	2,200*

* Includes part-time employees

Source: Edmonton Economic Development Authority Survey

Table 10
Average Weekly Earnings (Industrial Composite) 1979 – 1983*
($)

Year	Vancouver	Edmonton	Calgary	Winnipeg	Toronto	Montreal	Canadian Average
1979	322.84	**295.71**	304.90	249.92	288.15	289.24	292.16
1980	364.84	**330.84**	352.64	273.81	317.56	322.92	325.61
1981	399.40	**370.84**	408.83	303.68	356.26	358.91	362.76
1982	440.23	**404.28**	459.98	336.62	394.31	397.13	398.69
1983**	407.70	**405.07**	429.06	353.39	383.80	377.50	388.19

* Survey was substantially revised in April 1983. New data is not comparable with that of previous surveys. All employees, excluding overtime earnings.
** December 1983 (Industrial Aggregate)

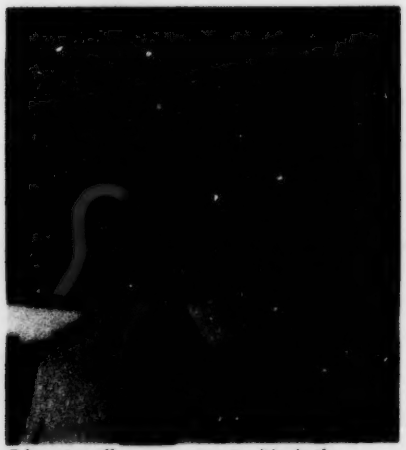
Source: Statistics Canada - Catalogue #72-002, January 1984

Table 11
Average Hourly Earnings in Manufacturing 1979 – 1983*
($)

Year	Vancouver	Edmonton	Calgary	Winnipeg	Toronto	Montreal	Canadian Average
1979	9.68	**8.54**	8.40	6.58	7.14	7.00	7.44
1980	10.75	**9.60**	9.51	7.24	7.82	7.78	8.19
1981	12.21	**11.12**	11.24	8.23	8.81	8.61	9.17
1982	13.80	**12.37**	12.51	9.24	9.58	9.55	10.25
1983**	13.67	**12.28**	12.15	9.41	9.77	9.74	10.88

* Hourly paid employees, including overtime earnings.
** December 1983.

Source: Statistics Canada - Catalogue #72-002, January 1984



Edmonton offers many opportunities in the transportation industry sector.

Table 12
Average Weekly Earnings in Edmonton, Alberta and Canada December 1983*
($)

Industry	Edmonton	Alberta	Canada
Manufacturing	**469.47**	462.36	429.89
Construction	**520.24**	503.00	460.37
Transportation, Communications and Other Utilities	**521.58**	506.84	497.20
Trade	**309.58**	314.56	284.82
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	**426.01**	413.39	398.77
Service	**374.65**	357.20	338.44
Industrial Aggregate	**405.07**	423.32	388.19

* All employees, excluding overtime earnings.

Source: Statistics Canada - Catalogue #72-002, January 1984

Table 13
Metro Edmonton 1983 Survey of Monthly Salaries by Occupation
($)

Salaried Employees	Mean Rate	Median Rate
Accountant, Professional	3,050	2,830
Bookkeeper, Junior	800	870
Clerk-Typist, Senior	1,620	1,670
Clerk, Cost	870	910
Data Entry Operator, Senior	1,570	1,560
Draftsman, Senior	2,540	2,500
Engineer, Professional	3,350	3,430
Manager, Administration	3,460	3,430
Manager, Purchasing	3,160	3,150
Manager, Warehouse	2,600	2,600
Receptionist	1,380	1,490
Systems Analyst, Senior	3,230	3,320
Technician, Chemical	2,250	2,310

Source: Alberta Bureau of Statistics - Alberta Pay and Benefits Survey 1983.

Table 14
Metro Edmonton 1983 Survey of Hourly Wages by Occupation
($)

Occupational Classification	Mean Rate	Median Rate
Assembler, Product	9.50	9.70
Attendant, Bottling Line	10.70	11.50
Caretaker, School	10.20	10.30
Carpenter, Maintenance - Journeyman	15.50	15.80
Cashier, Manual Register	7.60	5.50
Clerk, Shipping	10.10	10.70
Electrician, Maintenance - Journeyman	16.00	16.80
Fitter, Metal Fabricating	13.60	13.60
Labourer, General	10.80	11.90
Machinist - Journeyman	13.60	14.10
Material Handler, General	10.80	10.90
Millwright - Journeyman	16.30	16.00
Operator, Chemical (Class B)	14.60	15.30
Packager, Hand	9.50	9.40
Truck Driver, Tractor-Trailer	12.00	11.10
Welder, Production - Journeyman	13.70	13.50

Source: Alberta Bureau of Statistics - Alberta Pay and Benefits Survey 1983.

Table 15
Consumer Price Index Comparison

	December/83 (1981 = 100)	% Change for Year
Montreal	120.3	5.6
Ottawa	120.4	6.7
Toronto	120.5	6.0
Winnipeg	118.3	6.7
Edmonton	**118.8**	**5.8**
Calgary	118.3	4.6
Vancouver	118.5	5.5
Canada	119.6	5.8

Source: Statistics Canada - Catalogue #62-010

Table 16
Average Home Prices in the Edmonton area as of April 1984

Area	Detached Bungalow	Detached Two Storey
Castledowns	$ 79,000	$115,000
Clareview	75,500	110,000
Millwoods	74,500	105,000
Petrolia	88,000	125,000
Riverbend/ Grandview	112,000	145,000
St. Albert	79,000	113,000
Sherwood Park	78,500	120,000
Valley View/ Glenora	121,000	159,000
West End	85,000	116,000

Source: Royal Trust - Survey of Canadian House Prices, April 1984.

Table 17
Inter-City Cost-of-Living Summary*

	Montreal	Ottawa	Toronto	Winnipeg	Edmonton	Vancouver
Gross Income	$40,000	$40,000	$40,000	$40,000	**$40,000**	$40,000
1983 Federal and Provincial Income Tax	(10,333)	(8,375)	(8,375)	(9,076)	**(7,777)**	(8,086)
Disposable Income	25,307	27,265	27,265	26,564	**27,863**	27,554
House Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes	(5,064)	(10,435)	(9,942)	(7,707)	**(7,269)**	(11,611)
Other Housing Costs	(2,570)	(2,360)	(2,290)	(2,220)	**(1,940)**	(1,870)
Living Costs	(15,320)	(15,130)	(15,610)	(14,780)	**(15,420)**	(15,850)
Annual Possible Savings	$ 2,353	($660)	($577)	$ 1,857	**$ 3,234**	($1,777)

* Edmonton Economic Development Authority estimates.

Source: CCH Canadian Limited - Preparing Your Income Tax Returns, 1984 Edition.
Conference Board of Canada - Canadian Business Review, Autumn 1983.
Royal Trust - Survey of Canadian House Prices, April 1984.
Statistics Canada - Catalogue #62-010, Fourth Quarter 1983.

Table 18
Labour Organization Membership and Employment by Industry – Alberta, 1982

	Labour Organization Membership	Per cent Distribution	Total Number Employed	Organized as % Employed
Construction	45,704	17	90,300	51
Manufacturing	27,918	10	88,100	32
Mining	9,509	3	69,200	14
Public Administration	63,737	23	67,800	94
Service	77,234	28	372,600*	21
Trade	17,398	6	170,800	10
Transportation, Utilities & Communication	36,340	13	95,400	38
Totals	277,840	99	956,300**	29

* Combines Finance, Insurance and Real Estate classification with Community, Business and Personal Service classification.
** Excludes Forestry classification.

Source: Alberta Labour - Membership in Labour Organizations in Alberta 1982, August 1983
Statistics Canada - Catalogue #72-008.

Less than 30% of Alberta's total labour force is unionized.

Table 19
Labour Organization Membership by Census Metropolitan Area, 1981

	Labour Organizations	Local Branches	Membership Total	Labour Force ('000)	Unionized Labour Force (%)
Montreal	120	1,282	449,254	1,439	31.2
Ottawa	94	414	122,781	385	31.9
Toronto	115	1,009	446,609	1,747	25.6
Winnipeg	85	327	96,284	304	31.7
Edmonton	**80**	**202**	**110,239**	**352**	**31.3**
Calgary	73	156	79,527	317	25.1
Vancouver	97	468	279,668	662	42.3

Source: Statistics Canada - Catalogue #63-224
Statistics Canada - Catalogue #71-202

Table 20
A Provincial Ranking of Person-Days Lost Due to Legal Strikes and Lockouts Compared to Person-Days Worked – January to November, 1983

	Person-Days Worked (000's)	Person-Days Lost	Person-Days Lost/10,000 Person-Days Worked	Provincial Ranking* 1983	1982**	1981**
British Columbia	232,076	632,000	27.23	7	9	10
Alberta	**207,219**	**15,410**	**0.74**	**2**	**5**	**1**
Saskatchewan	71,778	27,070	3.77	4	10	2
Manitoba	86,180	12,530	1.45	3	1	6
Ontario	818,322	721,780	8.82	6	8	9
Quebec	517,765	2,801,030	54.10	10	7	8
New Brunswick	49,762	21,540	4.33	5	6	4
Nova Scotia	60,480	247,640	40.95	8	3	5
Prince Edward Island	8,301	0	0.00	1	2	7
Newfoundland	35,661	178,400	50.03	9	4	3
Federal Public Service	82,600	0	0.00			
Industries Under Federal Jurisdiction	***	100,290	N/A			
Canada (Provincial and Federal	2,170,144	4,757,690	21.92			

* Provinces are ranked from one to ten from the lowest to the highest ratio of person-days lost per 10,000 worked.
** Ranking is for full calender year.
*** Person-days worked are included in provincial totals.

Source: Alberta Labour – Collective Bargaining Scene, First Quarter 1984.

Alberta has an excellent record of minimizing lost time due to strikes and lockouts of employees.

References

The following is a list of selected references used in compiling this review:

Alberta Advanced Education
- Annual Report 1981-82
- Special Tabulation, May 1984

Alberta Bureau of Statistics
- Alberta Pay and Benefits, 1983
- Alberta Statistical Review, Fourth Quarter 1983

Alberta Labour
- Collective Bargaining Scene, First Quarter 1984
- Membership in Labour Organizations in Alberta, 1982

Alberta Manpower, Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Branch
- Shop Registration Statistics, 1983

Alberta Municipal Affairs
- Official Population List, 1983

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- Preparing Your Income Tax Returns, 1984 Edition

Conference Board of Canada
- Canadian Business Review, Autumn 1983

Edmonton Economic Development Authority
- Annual Economic Review, 1983
- An Inter-City Cost of Living Comparison, 1984

Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission

Royal Trust
- Survey of Canadian House Prices, April 1984

Statistics Canada
- Federal Census, 1971 and 1981
- #62-010, Consumer Prices and Price Indexes
- #71-001, The Labour Force
- #71-201, Historical Labour Force Statistics
- #72-002, Employment, Earnings and Hours

University of Alberta, Office of the Registrar
- Summary of Statistics, 1983-84

The Edmonton Economic Development Authority has made use of the most up-to-date information available in compiling this review, but cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of source documents.

Other Publications

The following publications are also available from the Edmonton Economic Development Authority. These reports have proven to be of assistance to business and industry in making effective decisions.

If you wish further information about Edmonton or its labour market or have questions or comments concerning this report, please contact:

Edmonton Economic Development Authority
2410 Oxford Tower
Edmonton Centre
10235 - 101 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3G1
Telephone: (403) 424-7870

1983 Edmonton Annual Economic Report

A summary of the structure and performance of the Edmonton economy, including information on industry, resources, labour force, demographics and lifestyle. The publication contains numerous tables and graphs showing 5 year trends.

Metro Edmonton Major Construction Projects Directory

Complete descriptions and contacts provided for major construction projects valued over $1 million.

Western Canadian Industrial Projects Directory

Identifies $115 billion of investment in Western Canada. Fifty-four percent or $62.3 billion is located within the Edmonton service area.

Industrial Land Sampling

Lists over 50 available industrial areas and parks with information concerning price, parcel sizes and access.

Inter-City Cost of Living Comparison

Compares the cost of living in Edmonton with other major Canadian cities.

Metro Edmonton Manufacturing and Distribution Report

Provides an analysis and justification of Edmonton as a manufacturing and distribution centre within Alberta and Western Canada.

Edmonton High Technology Development Report

Examines the locational factors important for siting a research facility and Edmonton's ability to meet those needs.